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This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

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SSD Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A camera control system for controlling a video camera from a computer terminal via a network, comprising:

a video transmitting device adapted to transmit image signals obtained by the video camera; and

a control device adapted to control the video camera on the basis of a control command from the computer terminal; and

wherein said control device adapted to start to execute ~~executes~~ automatic control of the video camera with transmitting image signals obtained by the automatic control to the computer terminal if the control command for the video camera is not received from the computer terminal for a predetermined period.

Claim 2 (Cancelled).

2
Claim ~~3~~ (Previously Amended): A camera control system according to claim 1, wherein said control device stops automatic control of the video camera if the video image of the video camera is not outputted by said video transmitting device.

3
Claim ~~4~~ (Previously Amended): A camera control system according to claim 1, further comprising:

an issuing device adapted to issue a control right of the video camera to one of a plurality of computer terminals which makes a request to acquire the control right of the video camera which is required for said control device to control the video camera,

wherein said control device executes automatic control of the video camera if the control right of the video camera is not issued to any of the plurality of computer terminals by said issuing device.

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Claim 5 (Previously Amended): A camera control system according to claim 4, wherein said control device executes automatic control of the video camera if a predetermined time period elapses after the control right of the video camera is released.

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Claim 6 (Previously Amended): A camera control system according to claim 4, further comprising:

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video transmitting device adapted to transmit a video image of the video camera in response to a request from each of the plurality of computer terminals,

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wherein said control device stops automatic control of the video camera if the video image of the video camera is not outputted from said video transmitting device to any computer terminal other than the computer terminal to which the control right of the video camera is issued.

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Claim 7 (Previously Amended): A camera control system according to claim 4, wherein said issuing device issues control rights of a predetermined plurality of video cameras to one computer terminal.

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Claim 8 (Previously Amended): A camera control system according to claim 4, wherein said control device executes automatic control of the predetermined plurality of video cameras if the control rights of the predetermined plurality of video cameras are not issued to any of the computer terminals by said issuing device.

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Claim 9 (Previously Amended): A camera control system according to claim 4, wherein said control device executes automatic control of the predetermined plurality of video

cameras excluding a video camera whose control right is received, if the control rights of the predetermined plurality of video cameras are issued to one computer terminal by said issuing device.

9
Claim 10 (Previously Amended): A camera control system according to claim 1,

wherein said control device executes automatic control of video cameras whose control rights are not received for a predetermined time period, from among the predetermined plurality of video cameras, if the control rights of the predetermined plurality of video cameras are issued to one computer terminal by said issuing device.

10
Claim 11 (Previously Amended): A camera control system according to claim 1,

further comprising:

a memory which stores a loci of an image pickup direction of the video camera in a memory,

wherein said control device executes automatic control of the video camera on the basis of the loci of the image pickup direction of the video camera, which is stored in said memory.

11
Claim 12 (Previously Amended): A camera control system according to claim 1,

further comprising:

a memory which stores at least one image pickup direction of the video camera in a memory,

wherein said control device executes automatic control of the video camera in the at least one image pickup direction stored in said memory.

¹²
Claim ~~13~~ (Previously Amended): A camera control system according to claims ~~11~~
wherein said memory stores an image pickup direction relative to a control position in a range
in which the video camera can pick up an image.

¹³
Claim ~~14~~ (Previously Amended): A camera control system according to claim ~~11~~
wherein said storage device stores at least one of a zoom magnification, a subject distance and
an on/off state of a backlight correction of the video camera, correspondingly with the image
pickup direction of the video camera.

¹⁴
Claim ~~15~~ (Previously Amended): A camera control system according to claim 1,
further comprising:

a measuring device adapted to divide a range of a controllable image pickup direction
of the video camera into a plurality of ranges and measuring a time period which elapses
when the video camera is being controlled in accordance with a control command from one of
the plurality of computer terminals in each of divided ranges,

wherein said control device controls an image pickup direction of the video camera
within a particular range of the plurality of divided ranges in which particular range a total of
the time periods measured by said measuring device is largest.

¹⁵
Claim ~~16~~ (Previously Amended): A camera control system according to claim ~~8~~
wherein if automatic control is being executed by said control device, said video
transmitting device transmits video signals from the predetermined plurality of video cameras
to a computer terminal which has made the video transmission request, while changing over
the video signals at intervals of a predetermined time period.

¹⁶
Claim ~~17~~ (Previously Amended): A camera control system according to claim ~~1~~
further comprising:

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a counting device adapted to count at least one of the number of times by which the control right has been issued to each of a predetermined plurality of video cameras by said issuing device, the number of times by which a request to acquire the control right of each of the predetermined plurality of video cameras has been received from the plurality of computer terminals, and the number of times by which said video transmitting device has transmitted a video image from each of the predetermined plurality of video cameras to the plurality of computer terminals; and

a changeover device adapted to control changeover time periods of outputting of video signals of the predetermined plurality of video cameras, on the basis of the number of times counted by said counting device,

wherein if automatic control is being executed by said control device, said video transmitting device changes over the video images from the predetermined plurality of video cameras on the basis of the changeover time periods controlled by said changeover device and outputs a video image to a computer terminal which has made the video transmission request.

Claim ¹⁷~~16~~ (Previously Amended): A camera control system according to claim ¹⁶~~17~~, wherein said changeover device controls the changeover time periods of outputting of the video signals of the predetermined plurality of video cameras in proportion to the number of times counted by said counting device.

Claim ¹⁸~~17~~ (Currently Amended): A camera control system comprising:
a video camera;

a control device adapted to control a the video camera;

an automatic control device adapted to start to execute automatic control of the video camera with transmitting image signals obtained by the automatic control to a computer

terminal, if a control command for the video camera is not received from the computer terminal for a predetermined period; and

a plurality of computer terminals for enabling said control device to output the control command for the video camera via a network; and

~~said video camera controlled by said control device.~~

Claim ¹⁹~~20~~ (Currently Amended): A control method for a camera control system for controlling a video camera from a computer terminal via a network, said control method comprising:

a control step of controlling the video camera on the basis of a control command from the computer terminal; and

an automatic control step of starting to execute ~~executing~~ automatic control of the video camera with transmitting image signals obtained by the automatic control to the computer terminal if the control command for the video camera is not received from the computer terminal for a predetermined period.

Claim 21 (Cancelled).

Claim ²⁰~~22~~ (Previously Amended): A control method according to claim ¹⁹~~20~~, further comprising:

a video transmitting step of transmitting a video image of the video camera in response to a request from a plurality of computer terminals,

wherein said automatic control step stops automatic control of the video camera if the video image of the video camera is not outputted by said video transmitting step.

Claim ²¹~~23~~ (Previously Amended): A control method according to claim ¹⁹~~20~~, further comprising:

an issuing step of issuing a control right of the video camera to one of a plurality of computer terminals which makes a request to acquire the control right of the video camera which is required for said control step to control the video camera,

wherein said automatic control step stops automatic control of the video camera if the control right of the video camera is not issued to any of the plurality of computer terminals by the issuing step.

22
Claim ~~24~~ (Original): A control method according to claim ~~23~~, wherein said automatic control step executes automatic control of the video camera if a predetermined time period elapses after the control right of the video camera is released.

23
Claim ~~25~~ (Original): A control method according to claim ~~23~~, further comprising:
a video transmitting step of transmitting a video image of the video camera in response to a request from each of the plurality of computer terminals,

wherein said automatic control step stops automatic control of the video camera if the video image of the video camera is not outputted by video transmitting step to any computer terminal other than the computer terminal to which the control right of the video camera is issued.

24
Claim ~~26~~ (Original): A control method according to claim ~~23~~, wherein said issuing step issues control rights of a predetermined plurality of video cameras to one computer terminal.

25
Claim ~~27~~ (Original): A control method according to claim ~~26~~, wherein said automatic control step executes automatic control of the predetermined plurality of video cameras if the control rights of the predetermined plurality of video cameras are not issued to any of the computer terminals by said issuing step.

²⁴
Claim ~~23~~ (Original): A control method according to claim ~~23~~, wherein said automatic control step executes automatic control of the predetermined plurality of video cameras excluding a video camera whose control right is received, if the control rights of the predetermined plurality of video cameras are issued to one computer terminal by said issuing step.

²⁷
Claim ~~26~~ (Original): A control method according to claim ~~26~~, wherein said automatic control step executes automatic control of video cameras whose control rights are not received for a predetermined time period, from among the predetermined plurality of video cameras, if the control rights of the predetermined plurality of video cameras are issued to one computer terminal by said issuing step.

²⁸
Claim ~~28~~ (Original): A control method according to claim ~~28~~, further comprising:
a storage step of storing a loci of an image pickup direction of the video camera,
wherein said automatic control step executes automatic control of the video camera on the basis of the loci of the image pickup direction of the video camera, which is stored by said storage step.

²⁹
Claim ~~31~~ (Original): A control method according to claim ~~31~~, further comprising:
a storage step of storing at least one image pickup direction of the video camera,
wherein said automatic control step executes automatic control of the video camera in the at least one image pickup direction stored by said storage step.

³⁰
Claim ~~32~~ (Original): A control method according to claim ~~32~~, wherein said storage step stores an image pickup direction relative to a central position in a range in which the video camera can pick up an image.

³¹
Claim ~~33~~ (Original): A control method according to claim ~~33~~ or ~~31~~, wherein said

storage step stores at least one of a zoom magnification, a subject distance and an on/off state of a backlight correction of the video camera, correspondingly with the image pickup direction of the video camera.

Claim ³²~~34~~ (Original): A control method according to claim ¹⁹~~20~~, further comprising:

a measuring step of dividing a range of a controllable image pickup direction of the video camera into a plurality of ranges and measuring a time period which elapses when the video camera is being controlled in accordance with a control command from one of the plurality of computer terminals in each of the plurality of divided ranges,

wherein said automatic control step controls an image pickup direction of the video camera within a particular range of the plurality of divided ranges in which particular range a total of the time periods measured by said measuring step is largest.

Claim ³³~~35~~ (Original): A control method according to claim ²⁵~~27~~, further comprising:

a video transmitting step of transmitting a video image of the video camera in response to a video transmission request from each of the plurality of computer terminals,

wherein if automatic control is being executed by said automatic control step, said video transmitting step transmits video signals from the predetermined plurality of video cameras to a computer terminal which has made the video transmission request, while changing over the video signals at intervals of a predetermined time period.

Claim ³⁴~~36~~ (Original): A camera control system according to claim ²¹~~23~~, further comprising:

a video transmitting step of transmitting a video image of the video camera in response to a video transmission request from each of the plurality of computer terminals;
a counting step of counting at least one of the number of times by which the control

right has been issued to each of a predetermined plurality of video cameras by said issuing step, the number of times by which a request to acquire the control right of each of the predetermined plurality of video cameras has been received from the plurality of computer terminals, and the number of times by which said video transmitting step has transmitted a video image from each of the predetermined plurality of video cameras to the plurality of computer terminals; and

a changeover step of controlling changeover time periods of outputting of video signals of the predetermined plurality of video cameras, on the basis of the number of times counted by said counting step,

wherein if automatic control is being executed by said automatic control step, said video transmitting step changes over the video images from the predetermined plurality of video cameras on the basis of the changeover time periods controlled by said changeover step and outputs a video image to a computer terminal which has made the video transmission request.

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Claim ³⁵~~34~~ (Original): A control method according to claim ³⁴~~35~~ wherein said changeover step controls the changeover time periods of outputting of the video signals of the predetermined plurality of video cameras in proportion to the number of times counted by said counting step.

Claim ³⁶~~35~~ (Currently Amended): A storage medium which stores therein a program for executing control over a camera control system for controlling a video camera from a computer terminal via a network, said program comprising processes of:

controlling the video camera on the basis of a control command from the computer terminal; and

starting to execute ~~executing~~ automatic control of the video camera with transmitting image signals obtained by the automatic control to the computer terminal if the control command for the video camera is not received from the computer terminal for a predetermined period.

Claim 39 (Cancelled).

Claim ~~39~~³¹ (Currently Amended): A storage medium according to claim ~~39~~³⁴, wherein said program further comprises processes of:

transmitting a video image of the video camera in response to a request from a plurality of computer terminals, and

stopping automatic control of the video camera if the video image of the video camera is not outputted.

Claim ~~41~~³⁸ (Previously Amended): A storage medium according to claim ~~41~~³⁸, wherein said program further comprises processes of:

issuing a control right of the video camera to one of a plurality of computer terminals which makes a request to acquire the control right of the video camera which is required to control the video camera; and

executing automatic control of the video camera if the control right of the video camera is not issued to any of the plurality of computer terminals.

Claim ~~42~~³⁹ (Original): A storage medium according to claim ~~42~~³⁸, wherein said program further comprises a process of executing automatic control of the video camera if a predetermined time period elapses after the control right of the video camera is released.

Claim ~~43~~⁴⁰ (Original): A storage medium according to claim ~~43~~³⁸, wherein said program further comprises processes of:

transmitting a video image of the video camera in response to a request from each of the plurality of computer terminals; and

stopping automatic control of the video camera if the video image of the video camera is not outputted to any computer terminal other than the computer terminal to which the control right of the video camera is issued.

41
Claim ~~44~~ (Original): A storage medium according to claim ~~41~~³⁸, wherein said program further comprises a process of issuing control rights of a predetermined plurality of video cameras to one computer terminal.

42
Claim ~~45~~ (Original): A storage medium according to claim ~~44~~⁴¹, wherein said program further comprises a process of executing automatic control of the predetermined plurality of video cameras if the control rights of the predetermined plurality of video cameras are not issued to any of the computer terminals.

43
Claim ~~46~~ (Original): A storage medium according to claim ~~44~~⁴¹, wherein said program further comprises a process of executing automatic control of the predetermined plurality of video cameras excluding a video camera whose control right is received, if the control rights of the predetermined plurality of video cameras are issued to one computer terminal.

44
Claim ~~47~~ (Original): A storage medium according to claim ~~44~~⁴¹, wherein said program further comprises a process of executing automatic control of video cameras whose control rights are not received for a predetermined time period, from among the predetermined plurality of video cameras, if the control rights of the predetermined plurality of video cameras are issued to one computer terminal.

45
Claim ~~48~~ (Original): A storage medium according to claim ~~48~~³⁸, wherein said program further comprises processes of storing a loci of an image pickup direction of the video

camera, and executing automatic control of the video camera on the basis of the loci of the image pickup direction of the video camera which is stored.

⁴⁴
Claim ~~45~~ (Original): A storage medium according to claim ~~38~~³⁶, wherein said program further comprises processes of storing at least one image pickup direction of the video camera, and executing automatic control of the video camera in the stored at least one image pickup direction.

⁴⁷
Claim ~~50~~ (Original): A storage medium according to claim ~~45~~⁴⁶, wherein said program further comprises a process of storing an image pickup direction relative to a central position in a range in which the video camera can pick up an image.

⁴⁸
Claim ~~51~~ (Original): A storage medium according to claim ~~46~~⁴⁵ or ~~49~~⁴⁶, wherein said program further comprises a process of storing at least one of a zoom magnification, a subject distance and an on/off state of a backlight correction of the video camera, correspondingly with the image pickup direction of the video camera.

⁴⁹
Claim ~~52~~ (Original): A storage medium according to claim ~~38~~³⁶, wherein said program further comprises processes of dividing a range of a controllable image pickup direction of the video camera into a plurality of ranges and measuring a time period which elapses when the video camera is being controlled in accordance with a control command from one of the plurality of computer terminals in each of the plurality of divided ranges, and controlling an image pickup direction of the video camera within a particular range of the plurality of divided ranges in which particular range a total of the measured time periods is largest.

⁵⁰
Claim ~~53~~ (Original): A storage medium according to claim ~~43~~⁴², wherein said program further comprises processes of transmitting a video image of the video camera in response to a video transmission request from each of the plurality of computer terminals, and, if automatic

control is being executed, transmitting video signals from the predetermined plurality of video cameras to a computer terminal which has made the video transmission request, while changing over the video signals at intervals of a predetermined time period.

~~31~~ Claim ~~54~~ (Original): A storage medium according to claim ~~41~~, wherein said program further comprises processes of:

transmitting a video image of the video camera in response to a video transmission request from each of the plurality of computer terminals;

counting at least one of the number of times by which the control right has been issued to each of a predetermined plurality of video cameras, the number of times by which a request to acquire the control right of each of the predetermined plurality of video cameras has been received from the plurality of computer terminals, and the number of times by which a video image has been transmitted from each of the predetermined plurality of video cameras to the plurality of computer terminals;

controlling changeover time periods of outputting of video signals of the predetermined plurality of video cameras, on the basis of the counted number of times; and

if automatic control is being executed, changing over the video images from the predetermined plurality of video cameras on the basis of the controlled changeover time periods and outputting a video image to a computer terminal which has made the video transmission request.

~~32~~ Claim ~~55~~ (Original): A storage medium according to claim ~~34~~, wherein said program further comprises a process of controlling the changeover time periods of outputting of the video signals of the predetermined plurality of video cameras in proportion to the counted number of times.